



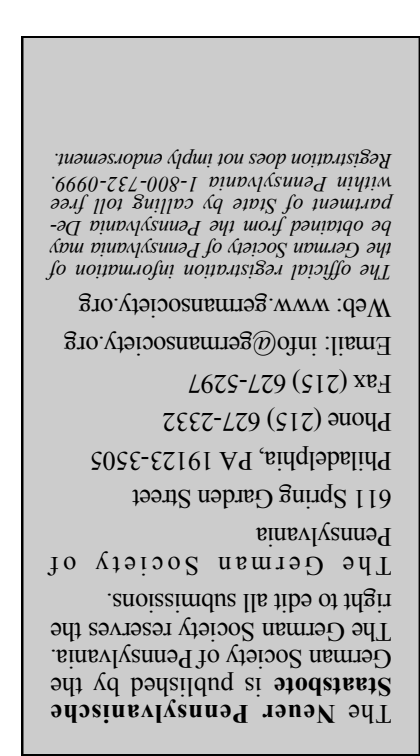
**The German Society of Pennsylvania**  
**611 Spring Garden Street**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19123-3505**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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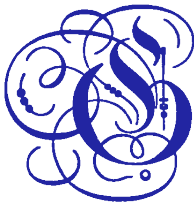
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*The official registration information of the German Society of Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*



Nov. 14	Konversationsabend, 7:00pm, "Linguistisches Thema"
Nov. 18	Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, "Luther"
Dec. 3	Christmas Bazaar, 12:00noon
Dec. 4	Town Hall Meeting for all members, 3:00pm
Dec. 14	Konversationsabend, 7:00pm, "Adventstjeier bei Hardy"
Dec. 16	Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, "Black Box Germany"
Jan. 15	Wister Quartet, 3:00pm
Jan. 20	Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, "To Be or Not to Be"
Jan. 24	Konversationsabend, 7:00pm, TBA
Feb. 17	Friday Film Fest, 6:30pm, "Der Hauptmann von Koepenick"

**Calendar of Events**  
*Please check our website [www.germansociety.org](http://www.germansociety.org) for up-to-date information and detailed descriptions of our programs.*



# Neuer Pennsylvaniaischer Staatsbote

Internet: [www.germansociety.org](http://www.germansociety.org)  
**Winter 2005/2006**

## Thanksgiving Greetings

As we are approaching Thanksgiving, it is good to ponder about how we are blessed living in the Philadelphia area. Other regions of the world were ravaged by natural catastrophes this year—such as the Indian Ocean tsunami, hurricanes, floods, etc.—and others suffer man-made catastrophes. Furthermore, the weather has been very good to us this fall, -also the best season in life... Hence, I feel that we, at the Society, have much to be thankful for.

In response to the initiative started by Frank Genieser early this spring, approximately 100 members whose membership had lapsed during the past two years pledged to join the Society again. Others are still "sitting on the fence."

I encourage one and all to stop by and visit us during the Advent season, or whenever you come to the city, and see for yourself what progress has been made in the past five months. (In fact, I may be tempted to phone you before too long, in order to see where you stand *vis-à-vis* the Society).

Likewise, our call for support in sprucing up our premises has received a generous response. As of this writing, approximately \$15,000 has been received, including a most-generous gift of \$3,000 from the Women's Auxiliary. A check for that amount was handed to me by Brigitte Masci during our *Stiftungsfest* celebration, along with an additional \$2,000 to be used for general operations purposes. Many thanks indeed! **Continued on page 2**

## A Bit of History

At a time when so many German Society volunteers are moving about the building in a flurry to clean, paint, drill, organize, answer phones and open doors, one person has been sitting at a table since early July, rarely moving at all. The reason for this seeming inactivity is that I am writing the history of the German Society from 1764 to the present. This project is funded by the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington D.C., an organization dedicated to German-American relations and supported by the German government. My work will culminate in a 150-page scholarly manuscript and together with Kevin Oystoyich's work on the holdings of the Joseph Horner Memorial Library (*Neuer PA Staatsbote*, Summer, 2005) will be published by the GHI by late 2006.

The German Society and its library are not new to me, since I did some research here on 18<sup>th</sup>-century German-speakers in Pennsylvania in the fall of 2001 as part of a dissertation fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. I received my Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine in 2003 and have been an Assistant Professor at the California State University, Los Angeles since then. The research grant from the GHI allowed me to leave my teaching duties in California for the 2005/6 academic year, and I am enjoying my time at the Society and in Philadelphia tremendously. Every day I discover new, fascinating aspects of GSP history, and I continue to be amazed at the wealth of unique histori-

cal sources not only in the library, but the attic rooms, and even the basement. While my project will highlight the importance of the German Society in Philadelphia, I am also discovering many more individual stories of German Society leaders, members and of those who benefited from Society's benevolence.

Overall, it is clear that the German Society, founded as a voluntary association, has experienced many moments of crisis and change throughout its long history. The Society has survived as a viable and important organization, because in every generation a small group of extremely dedicated people revitalized the Society and cared for its building and valuable contents. For those of you currently involved in cleaning, scraping, painting and repairing, please know that earlier generations of GSP volunteers did the same.

Although we often think of the past as a better time, the sources often tell a very different story. For example, the 1880s are generally considered to be among

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And those of you who have recently come to an event at the Society, could not have missed the physical changes to our building, resulting from the devoted efforts of a handful of dedicated people spending numerous hours over the past three months washing, scraping and painting doors, fences, and windows.

The attendance of our expanded *Stiftungsfest* celebration, including the *Schlacht-* and *Bierfest*, was higher than last year, and so has been the interest in the Friday Film Fests, the Wister Concert Series, and other established programs.

In addition, we have introduced a St. Martin's Day Parade to take place on November 11<sup>th</sup> and a European Wine Tasting Seminar on December 4<sup>th</sup> following our next Town Hall Meeting which you are encouraged to attend.

We are also planning to hold dance lessons (both of a Latin and Ballroom type) during the winter months so that you can even more enjoy future social gatherings at the Society.

And, last but not least, I am happy to report that the Christmas Bazaar run by the Women's Auxililary, which has long been a Society tradition, is returning this year. It will take place on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please be sure to visit.

Let me conclude by thanking you for sticking with us during the difficult period of the past.

I wish you all the best for the upcoming holiday season—Thanksgiving, Chanukkah, and Christmas. Enjoy it with your family and friends.

Mit fröhlichen Grüßen,  
Hardy von Auenmueller

Continued from page 1

the most vibrant years in GSP history, after all, the Society moved to its Spring Garden location in 1888. However, Society records reveal that during that decade very few members attended quarterly meetings, voted in annual board elections, and more than half of those nominated for offices, declined to serve.

Moving closer to the present, in the late 1960s, membership had fallen to below 300 and due to the dramatic decline of the stock market in 1973/4, the Society's investment portfolio lost 35% of its value in one year. In addition, the Society had a substantial deficit every year; yet Society members never lost the will to pull through.

As you might be able to tell from reading this, or for those of you whom I have had the pleasure to meet in person, I am really excited about learning and writing the GSP history. I hope to meet many more Society and Women's Auxililary members in the coming months and look forward to hearing first-hand from long-time members about their experiences and recollections. Please email me when you have time for a chat about our Society. (bpflege@calstatela.edu)

—Birte Pfleger



Society Pages

Wine Seminar

You have laughed, listened, danced, sung, eaten and drank at the Society. Well, beginning this fall, you'll also be able to sniff, swirl and swallow. We are launching the European Wine School as an educational outreach to the whole Philadelphia community, with exciting programs that focus on wine, beer and food.

What makes this possible is our having secured the services of **Dr. Lynn Hoffman**. Lynn is an author of fiction, and a writer about wine who has been turning people on to the joys of good food and drink for more than twenty years. He's the author of a new college textbook about wine (yes, they have things like that these days) and a former professor of food and wine (how do you get a job like that?) at Drexel University.

Our first program will be an introduction to wine tasting to be held in the Ratskeller on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm after the Town Hall Meeting. The purpose of this session is to:

- ◆ sharpen your taste buds,
- ◆ take the mystery out of the rituals associated with wine,
- ◆ introduce you to a few really wonderful wines that might have escaped your notice, and
- ◆ have a really good time.

If you're already an experienced wine lover, you can look forward to in-depth tastings that concentrate on Italy—one tasting each for Lombardy, Piedmont and the Veneto, the last French bargains, the Austrian wine miracle, the Mosel-Saar-Ruwer, and many other regions and topics. In the spring, we will also be launching the European Wine Certificate course—a series of ten professional level classes that will lead to the awarding of a Fundamental Certificate in Wine. Be sure to watch for our beer classes too...the first is planned for late January.

—Dr. Lynn Hoffman

Society Pages

German Classes Winter Session begins on December 12<sup>th</sup>

An invitation is extended to all who wish to join us in order to learn German. Improve your skills by attending one of the intermediate or advanced classes.

During the fall session, forty-eight students were enrolled. For the winter session, we will offer nine classes, including two beginners' classes, to be held on Monday and/or Tuesday evenings (depending on demand). Anyone with previous knowledge of German may join an intermediate or advanced session at any time.

**Dates:** December 12, 2005 to March 6, 2006.

**Classes for the twelve-week Winter Session are scheduled for the weeks of:**

December 12, 19, 2005, January 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, February 6, 13, 20, 27 and March 6, 2006. (There will be a pause of two weeks before the spring session in case we need snow days, as was the case last year.)

**Cost:** \$400 for 36 hours of instruction - still the best language learning value in town. Class materials, including audio tapes and CDs, are available for purchase from the Society at reasonable prices.

<b>Schedule:</b>	1A	Monday and/ or Tuesday	6:15-9:15pm
	1B	Wednesday with J. Carazo	6:15-9:15pm
	1C	Wednesday with A. Taylor	6:15-9:15pm
	2A	Monday with A. Taylor	6:15-9:15pm
	2B	Tuesday with A. Taylor	6:15-9:15pm
	2C	Tuesday with M. Heinsdorf	6:15-9:15pm
	3B	Wednesday with M. Heinsdorf	6:15-9:15pm
	4	Wednesday with M. Heinsdorf	1:15-4:15pm

For further information e-mail the Language Program Coordinator, Michael Heinsdorf, at [language@germansociety.org](mailto:language@germansociety.org) or call 215-627-2332.

**Expansion of our language program** is a high priority for us in the coming months, since we have the capacity to handle more students in our classes. We expect to attract new students from various target groups, such as music and art schools, middle managers of large, mid-sized and smaller companies, among others. If you, members of your families, friends or colleagues have thought about enrolling in a German language course, now would be a good time to consider what we have to offer.

New courses in **Business German** are planned. These will include cultural awareness training, oriented towards the business environment. To start this program, a volunteer to plan, pilot and help market it will be needed.

Also, we believe there will be an opportunity to market specialized support services to German expatriates who have recently relocated to the Philadelphia area. Here, too, a volunteer is requested to step forward.

Please call our office (215-627-2332) and talk with Sharan or me.

--Hardy von Auenmueller

Walsh-Silva Wedding

It was almost the tenth anniversary of the day we met. So, on July 1<sup>st</sup> I got down on one knee and proposed my intentions.

Andrea is brilliant at the mechanics of events and planning. Her first miracle was finding the German Society. Hardy von Auenmueller started our tour in the grand ballroom, an impressive performance space forty feet wide and seventy feet deep, with plenty of areas for tables, dancing, a bar and food. Mostly though we loved the aesthetics of the space; a full wall of arched windows, colonnades running up the walls and ornate brass chandeliers hanging overhead.

Heading upstairs along a carved wooden staircase, we found the icing on the cake—the Library. A richly toned room, graceful and beautiful, with walnut racks of books, lined with marble busts and sculptures, topped elegantly with a wooden balcony. Everything leading to the podium at the front, which immediately brought to mind the purpose we had for the space. We loved the character, the art and elegance, and sense of importance inherent to the building.

The German Society offered everything we were looking for. In Andrea's eyes I could see we had found a home for our event. And we did; it went off without a hitch on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005. We had an incredible day, a beautiful event and danced until midnight in the best of company. Many thanks to the folks at the German Society!

—Nicholas Silva & Andrea Walsh



Bundesliga Fußball — „Stand der Dinge“

The weekly TV Program via SAT-1 Satellite is continuing on the Big Screen in the Ratskeller of the German Society. We are entering the critical phase of the season before the *Winterpause*.

By the time you read this, 12 *Runden* will have been played. As indicated in the Fall issue, we have a regular game each Saturday around 5:45 to 8 pm. At intermission we enjoy the option of switching to other channels that might offer highlights of other games. For those who can stick around, there is often the opportunity to view another game on Fox Sports-Net, such as WorldCup 2006 qualifying.

We also promised to bring you periodic brief updates on the German *Fußball* Scene, and also the European Champions *Liga*.

A well-tempered Evening with the  
Württemberg Chamber Orchestra

The German Society's festive Barthelmes Auditorium was an ideal setting for the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn's tour on Monday, October 17. The tour was organized by the German Embassy, honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Adolf Cluss, a German architect famous for his buildings in Washington, DC.

The program offered a splendid all-German mixture of crowd pleasers and less-often performed works. Mendelssohn's Sinfonia No. 10 was followed by Mozart's ever-popular Violin Concerto in A Major.

The orchestra also indulged in an

In the Bundesliga, Bayern München (perennial favorite), Bremen, Hamburg and Schalke are in the current running. "*Der Klub*," Nürnberg's *Traditionsverein*, without last year's goal scoring champion Mintal, is the last, and first candidate to drop down to the *zweite Liga*. Their coach may be the next to be fired. On the other hand, Bochum looks like the favorite to come back up, with 1860 München and Freiburg also in the running (all three dropped down last year).

In the Champions *Liga*, 4 games in round-robin fashion have been played in each respective group (there are eight of four teams each). Defending champion Liverpool might be challenged by Chelsea and any of the Italian and Spanish teams. Manchester is in danger of not making the top two in its group.

arrangement of Bruckner's colorful and emotional symphonic-length String Quintet in F Major.

Particularly delightful, the 23-year-old soloist, Arabella Steinbacher, from Munich won the hearts of the audience. This rising star, under the mentoring of Anne-Sophie Mutter, matched the orchestral colors well, and convinced with *jouissance* and the confidence gained from many performances in the world's great concert halls. She also awed the audience with an extremely demanding encore from Eugene Ysaÿe's Sonata No. 2.

The ardent musicality of that evening's artists surely whetted the appetite for the remaining season gems.

—Dr. Guido Houben

After the round-robin, the remaining 16 teams play home and away in elimination rounds.

Lastly, in the *Bundesliga Pokal*, two rounds have been completed. Only 10 first division teams are still left; however, the luck of the draw means that at least four more will fall in the next round.

All these happenings should create extra interest and excitement in upcoming games. If you are interested in being added to my e-mail distribution list, please contact me at

[gusimon@worldnet.att.net](mailto:gusimon@worldnet.att.net). And by all means, invite other soccer fans that might not be GSP members.

So please stay tuned and to all "Hipp, Hipp, Hurrah".

—Georg Simon



Friday Film Fests

Friday, December 16, 2005 6:30pm  
"Black Box Germany"

This film shows the Federal Republic of Germany in the 70s and 80s.

Friday, January 20, 2006 6:30pm  
"To Be or Not to Be"

A comedy raising social and political awareness as a serious propaganda film.

Friday, February 17, 2006 6:30pm  
"Der Hauptmann von Koepenick"

This is the story of a Berlin shoemaker who donned an old captain's uniform and exploited the blind obedience to state authority.

\$12 for members, \$15 for non-members  
which includes our famous Suppenküche, coffee, cake, and a discussion.

—Allen Krumm

My Middle Name is Israel

by Hans Ludwig Riess

(ISBN# 1588209660)

"My Middle Name is Israel" sind die Erinnerungen von Hans Ludwig Riess, Sohn einer assimilierten deutsch-jüdischen Familie, an sein Leben im Vorkriegs-Berlin, an seine und seiner Eltern Flucht aus Deutschland und ihre daraus resultierenden Erfahrungen als Flüchtlinge in dem im Krieg befindlichen China.

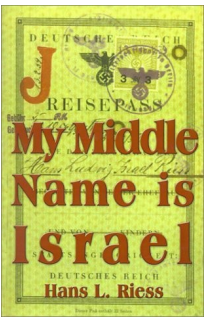
Die besonders lesenswerten Passagen findet man gleich am Anfang des Buches, in denen Mr. Riess sein Leben in Berlin von seiner Geburt im Jahre 1921 bis zu seiner Flucht, 18 Jahre später, schildert; seine Kindheit und das Erwachsenwerden sowie sein und seiner Eltern ungläubiges Erschrecken über die Ereignisse die Hitler's Machtübernahme folgten. Die Beschreibungen wecken die Erinnerung an eine Metropole die damals als die vitalste und schillernde Hauptstadt Europas galt. Ich wurde an den Film "Cabaret" erinnert, der die aufregende und dekadente Atmosphäre der Stadt kurz vor Ausbruch des Krieges so hervorragend eingefangen hat. Ebenso ist es Mr. Riess gelungen, ein Stück Berlin aus seiner Erinnerung wieder auferstehen zu lassen. Durch die dunklen Wolken, die die Nazidiktatur seit 1933 über die jüdischen Berliner in immer bedrohlicherer Weise heraufziehen lässt, weiss Mr. Riess einige Sonnenstrahlen durchbrechen zu lassen.

Als nächstes beschreibt Mr. Riess seine und seiner Eltern Flucht aus Berlin, die buchstäblich im letzten Moment, nämlich im April 1939 gelingt, nach beängstigenden Versuchen zu entkommen,

was in keinem Moment gewährleistet war. Mit der Genehmigung, die Stadt zu verlassen, beginnt die Odysee der Familie Riess. Während die Eltern sofort eine Überfahrt für sich auf der "Gneisenau" nach Shanghai buchten, folgte Mr. Riess erst, nachdem er in England ein Examen als Maschinenbauingenieur abgelegt hatte. Danach traf er nach einer abenteuerlichen Reise mit der "Haruna Maru" bei seinen Eltern in Shanghai ein, wo er für eine englische Firma arbeitete, die ihn noch in London zu diesem Zweck eingestellt hatte. Noch war Shanghai nicht von den Japanern eingenommen, die seit 1937 ihre Invasion von China fortsetzten.

Die faszinierende Schilderung der Häfen, die Mr. Riess auf seiner Reise von London nach Shanghai sah, und die während der Kriegsgeschehnisse in Europa und Asien stattfand, wird noch übertroffen von der lebhaften Beschreibung des exotischen Lebens in Shanghai, wo der Held des Buches u.a. an den Festlichkeiten zur Zweiteheirats seines chinesischen Chefs mit einer jüngeren Frau teilnahm, die von seiner ersten Frau mit chinesischem Pomp ausgerichtet wurde.

—Inge Niebisch



A Partnership with Swan Books  
of Freiburg, Germany



Now there's a better way to order books from Germany. With its on-line ordering capabilities, *Buchhandlung Schwanhäuser* can process orders quickly, reliably, and with a personal touch.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, owner Michael Schwanhäuser and his associate, Linda Sloan-Ecker met at the German Society with Hardy von Auenmueller and Lorena Meunier, to introduce the bookstore and explain how the members of the German Society can benefit from this new alternative for fulfilling their German-language book needs.

*Buchhandlung Schwanhäuser*—or "Swan Books" for our English speakers—is headquartered in the charming university city of Freiburg in the Schwarzwald. Mr. Schwanhäuser draws upon his 35 years of bookstore experience to find even the most uncommon title, and send it on its way at the lowest rate, by the most favorable shipping means.

Look for the Swan Book's brochures at the upcoming Christmas Bazaar at the Society, and place your order soon, if you wish to receive it before Christmas!

[www.swanbooks.de](http://www.swanbooks.de)



The stage of the Auditorium displaying numerous silent auction items which brought in approximately \$5,000 in proceeds. ▶



◀Hardy von Auenmüller, the infatigable worker, also on the dance floor, with our historian, Dr. Birte Pflieger.



▲The roasted pig being “surgically” carved by Dr. Lisa Peddinghaus, under the watchful eye of Hella Volgenau.

Sharan Knoell, ▶ our new Office Manager, serving Wurst while Ruth Dean ladles sauerkraut.



◀Reception in *J. Horner Memorial Library* prior to the Gala Dinner at this year's *Stiftungsfest*.

▼Brigitte Masci, Vice-President of the Women's Auxiliary, presenting two checks to Hardy von Auenmüller (see story on p.1).



◀Brent Black, Manager of DaimlerChrysler Services of Horsham, PA and Hardy von Auenmüller, sealing the DCS-GSP partnership upon completion of the Ratskeller kitchen — to which DaimlerChrysler has been a major contributor.



▼The “Silent Auction” Chair, Hella Volgenau, in action.



◀Dr. Victor Schutz, Master of Ceremony, and Sonia Churchman, Chair of the Stiftungsfest, with her husband Morgan, presenting toasts in English and German.



All photos by Helen Schutz